

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended is respectfully requested.

Claim 1-4 are presently active in the application.

This application is a continuation application of Serial Number 10/072,996 filed February 12, 2002, now allowed, and claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-040663, filed on February 16, 2001, the entire contents of both of these applications being incorporated herein by reference.

Accordingly, examination on the merits is believed to be in order and an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Bradley D. Lytle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 08/03)
BDL:fb1
I:\ATTY\BDL\243949.PREL.AM..DOC